

Vernal citizens begin drive to save tabernacle

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VERNAL — Citizens have started a move to acquire and preserve the Uintah Stake Tabernacle after it was announced last month that it will no longer be used for stake conferences of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Gayle McKeachnie, president of the new Glines Stake, formed last June, said the tabernacle has not been used for some time by the four stakes in the area. Their conferences are now held in two new stake centers.

He said the tabernacle at 100 S. Fifth West is in the Glines Stake, but he didn't want to ask members or church authorities to put substantial sums of money into repairs when it isn't used for church meetings anymore.

Instead, he said, he told interested citizens if a local entity was interested in taking it over, making repairs and preserving it, he would ask the church to let such a group take it over at a low cost.

Consequently, a Save the Tabernacle Committee was formed, and McKeachnie said a proposal is being drawn up to present to church authorities, stating the terms and

conditions on which the building could be turned over to another entity.

He said if the church agrees, "we can make that known to the people who want to save the tabernacle, and they will know what they have to do to get it turned over to them."

He said there has been no official statement that the tabernacle can be turned over to anyone, but, he said, "The brethren I have talked to indicate the church would be receptive to this kind of plan."

McKeachnie said the church doesn't use the building much anymore, but the community at large does, so the fair thing would be for the community to take it over.

The tabernacle committee estimates it will cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to repair the building's roof and heating system and put in restrooms.

A public meeting will be held in the tabernacle at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, to determine the extent of community support for the preservation project.

The committee proposes to pre-
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Ground was broken for Uintah Stake Tabernacle in 1900; it was dedicated in 1907.

District commitments for future lending were \$1.36 billion at the end of March 1984. This was a 25.4 percent increase from the level at the end of February and a 40.8 increase over March 1983.